

Docket 56191  
Serial No. 10/629,193

## PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the initial Office Action on the merits dated June 7, 2004. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the  
5 foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 18-20 were previously allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 2-3 and 13 have been canceled and claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 14, and 16 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 4-12, and 14-20 remain in this application with claims 1, 12, and 18 being independent.

10 IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings are objected to because labels "14" and "16" on Fig. 2 are unclear. Replacement drawing sheet 2/4 that includes Fig. 2 is attached. Labels "14" and "16" have been replaced.

15 IN THE CLAIMS:35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections:

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smeltzer (US 3,667,708). However, the examiner has indicated that claim 3 stands objected to  
20 as depending from a rejected base claim (i.e. claim 1) but that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

Docket 56191  
Serial No. 10/629,193

## PATENT APPLICATION

claims. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 3 as well as the limitations of claim 2 which is intervening. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, and claims 4 and 5 have also been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance along with claims 4-11 which depend therefrom, and  
5 such is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Smeltzer (US 3,667,708), Pruett (US 1,556,127),  
10 Stricker (US 5,507,114), and Watterson et al. (US 6,623,140). However, the examiner indicated that claims 3, 13-14, and 16 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 2  
15 and 3, as described above and should now be in condition for allowance along with claims 4-11 which depend therefrom.

Further, claim 12 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13. Claim 13 has been canceled, and claims 14 and 16 have been amended to properly depend from claim 12. Claims 15 and 17 also depend from claim 12. Therefore, claim 12 should now be in  
20 condition for allowance along with claims 14-17 which depend therefrom, and such is respectfully requested.

Docket 56191  
Serial No. 10/629,193

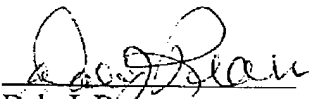
## PATENT APPLICATION

Claims 18-20 stand allowed.

This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better condition for allowance, she is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone  
5 number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: June 23, 2004

  
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